



TALK OF THE TOWN

Town of Hillsborough Newsletter: December 2021



Mural Completed in Downtown Hillsborough

A new mural was completed last month in downtown Hillsborough. Artists Richard Nickel and Chris Revels drew and painted the mural on the side of the building at 109 E. King St., which houses The News of Orange County, a local newspaper publication. They encouraged passersby to join them in painting, and some people picked up a paint brush to contribute to the mural.

The mural was a partnership effort. The Hillsborough Tourism Development Authority, which administers the proceeds of a 3% room occupancy tax, contributed \$6,000. The Orange County Arts Commission organized a selection panel and paid \$325 each to the top three artists who submitted preliminary designs. Womack Publishing Company, which owns the newspaper and its building, agreed to the painting. Volunteers from the Town of Hillsborough, The News of Orange County and Hillsborough Arts Council participated on the selection panel.

"The mural is delightful, and we're really happy to add another 'something extra' to town for visitors and residents to enjoy," Planning and Economic Development Manager Shannan Campbell said. "We are grateful to the artists and our partners on this project who made it possible."

Holiday Festivities

Several holiday events are happening:

- ❁ Dec. 3-Jan. 2 — Gingerbread Competition entries on display
- ❁ Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. — Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting
- ❁ Dec. 16 at 6-8:30 p.m. — Santa gives toys at Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center
- ❁ Dec. 21 at 5:45 p.m. — Solstice Lantern Walk

See visithillsboroughnc.com and hillsboroughnc.gov for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound with the Town

If you are interested in volunteering to help remove invasive plants or litter from town property and rights of way, please email Public Space and Sustainability Manager Stephanie Trueblood to be added to her volunteer list.

Last January, several people contacted Trueblood seeking service projects for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The community service is great, but please don't wait until Jan. 17 when town offices are closed to make plans. Email Trueblood for volunteer opportunities: stephanie.trueblood@hillsboroughnc.gov.



Water Assistance Program Needs Donations



The Water Assistance Program needs donations to help those who are unable to pay their water or sewer bills. The program is funded by donations from utility customers and administered by a nonprofit agency.

To make a donation, visit the town's website or contact town staff at 919-296-9450 or by email at customerservice@hillsboroughnc.gov.

Consider Serving on a Volunteer Board

Offer your time and insight to one of the town's appointed boards. The Historic District Commission needs a resident of the town's zoning jurisdiction. The Tourism Board needs someone who owns or works for a restaurant or pub in town. The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee needs an in-town resident. The Tree Board and Parks and Recreation Board need volunteers, too. See the [news](#) section on the town website.



Ground Broken on New Fire and EMS Station



Ground was broken in mid-November on the new fire and emergency services station on College Park Road in the Waterstone neighborhood. The project is expected to take just over a year to complete. The town contracts with Orange Rural Fire Department for fire protection services and provided the land for the project.

Tree Planted for Arbor Day

The Hillsborough Tree Board planted a swamp white oak tree at the Dimmocks Mill Road entrance to Gold Park in November as part of an Arbor Day event. Orange County forest rangers presented the town with its annual Tree City USA designation.



Grease reminder — Refraining from washing fats, oil and grease down the drains helps prevent sewer blockages, which lead to spills and overflows that are hazardous. Please pour excess cooking fat or oil in an old can or jar to cool for disposal, and wipe pots and pans with a paper towel. See the [fact sheet](#).



Irrigation — Spray irrigation can occur between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. and is limited to three applications per week totaling no more than 1 inch. Systems must have rain or moisture sensors. See www.hillsboroughnc.gov/lawn-irrigation.



Loose leaves — The town's vacuum truck picks up loose leaves weekly November through January. To request a delivery of leaves, call 919-296-9600.



December holidays — Town offices will be closed Dec. 24, 27 and 31.

Christmas Eve — Friday routes will be picked up Thursday, Dec. 23.



Christmas (observed Dec. 27) — Monday routes will be picked up Tuesday, Dec. 28.

New Year's Eve — Friday routes will be collected Monday, Jan. 3.

Property tax assistance — The Orange County Longtime Homeowner Assistance program provides property tax bill assistance to help people stay in their homes. For more information, call Orange County Housing and Community Development at 919-245-2655 or email HousingHelp@orangecountync.gov. Applications are due Dec. 15.

Community Survey — The mailing of the survey for in-town residents was delayed. When the survey arrives, please complete and return it right away.